IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Attn: Mail Stop AF

Tadashi SAO et al. : Patent Art Unit: 3744

Serial No. 10/580,909 : Examiner: Mohammad M. Ali

Filed: May 30, 2006 : **Confirmation No. 6843**

For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND AN AIR

CONDITIONER PROVIDED THEREWITH:

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application:

[] No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

| | CLAIMS | | SMALL ENTITY | OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY |
|--|-------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| REMAINING | HIGHEST NO. | | | |
| AFTER | PREVIOUSLY | PRESENT | ADDIT. | ADDIT. |
| AMENDMENT | PAID FOR | EXTRA | RATE FEE | RATE FEE |
| TOTAL 22 | <u>- 20 = </u> | 2 | x 26 = \$ | x 52 = \$104.00 |
| INDEP 2 | - 3 = | 0 | $x \cdot 110 = \$$ | x 220 = \$ |
| [] 1ST PRESENTATION OF MULT. DEP. CLAIM | | | + 195 = \$ | + 390 = \$ |
| | | | TOTAL \$ | TOTAL \$104.00 |

- [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.
 - [X] The amount of \$130.00 for Applicants petition for a one-month extension of time.
 - [X] Any additional excess claim fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
 - [X] Any additional patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Dated: February 19, 2009

/Patrick A. Hilsmier/ Patrick A. Hilsmier Reg. No. 46,034

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202) 293-0444

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DK-US040366

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the October 22, 2008 Office Action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the <u>Listing of Claims</u>, which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1-22 are now pending, with claims 1 and 15 being the only independent claims.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.